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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year ending December 31st, 1939.

H. T. Harding, The Abbey Press, Malmesbury.



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MUNDENS,
MALMESBURY.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF MALMESBURY.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1939.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

(1) Area ... 202 acres.

Under the Local Government Act of 1929 an area of 24 acres was added to the Borough as from the 1st April, 1934. This area was formerly in the Rural District of Malmesbury.

(2) Population

(a) At Census for 1931 ... 2334

(b) Estimated for 1939 ... 2272

(3) Rateable Value ... £11178

Sum produced by a penny rate, £44 0s. 6d.

(4) Vital Statistics.

		Total	M.	F.	Birth Rate 15.
Live Births	{ Legitimate	43	20	23	
	{ Illegitimate	0	0	0	
		Total	M.	F.	
Still Births	{ Legitimate	0	0	0	
	{ Illegitimate	0	0	0	

	Total	M.	F.
Deaths	34	20	14

The number of deaths gives a Crude Death Rate 14.9.

Adjusted Death Rate 11.8.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age

	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	4	1	3
Illegitimate	0	0	0

Infantile Mortality Rate 90.3.

Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of
childbirth, 0

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Hospitals.

(1) Isolation.

Infectious cases are sent to the Chippenham and Malmesbury Joint Isolation Hospital, which is situated in the Chippenham Rural District. During the past year no case was treated there.

(2) Small-Pox.

In the event of a case of small-pox arising in your District, isolation hospital accommodation is provided by the Wiltshire County Council at their small-pox hospital.

(3) Malmesbury and District Hospital.

This Hospital, supported by voluntary contributions is situated just outside your District, and provides accommodation for cases, medical or surgical.

(4) Maternity.

Malmesbury Maternity Home. This contains six beds, three of which are subsidised by the Wiltshire County Council.

(5) Ambulance Facilities.

For infectious cases a motor ambulance is maintained at the Chippenham and Malmesbury Joint Isolation Hospital, and serves to remove cases from the District.

For accident and non-infectious cases, a motor ambulance is maintained by the Malmesbury Fire Brigade.

(6) Laboratory Facilities.

Examinations of pathological specimens are carried out at the Salisbury Infirmary by an arrangement made by the County Council. During the past year three such examinations were made.

(7) Professional Nursing in the Home.

A District Nurse attends midwifery cases in your District.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

(1) Water.

There has been a continuous supply of water during the past year from the storage tanks situated in the meadow at the bottom of Holloway Hill. These tanks are filled from springs which provide sufficient water to allow continuous pumping to the main distributing tank.

The area around the storage tanks and springs has been fenced in order to prevent any contamination by animal matter.

(2) Drainage and Sewerage.

The sewers discharge into the rivers surrounding the Borough. Catchpits are provided near the mouth of the sewers and are periodically cleansed. A certain amount of sewage is thus prevented from reaching the river but the state of the stream, especially in the summer, is most unsatisfactory. I have in previous annual reports called the

attention of your Council to this pollution and would again urge you to consider seriously a sewerage scheme for the Borough.

(3) Closet Accommodation.

(a) Number of defective closets found	...	19
(b) Number remedied	...	8
(c) Number of new closets constructed	...	26
(d) Number converted to a more approved type		2

(4) Disinfection of Houses.

Number disinfected	...	0
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(5) Public Cleansing.

Refuse is collected twice weekly. Covered dustbins are now made compulsory for householders.

Litter is still deposited in the streets and I regret that the bye-law adopted in 1933 is never enforced.

(6) Swimming Baths and Pools.

Facilities exist for public bathing in the river adjoining the recreation field. Owing to the polluted state of the river I cannot regard this site as safe for bathing.

(7) Eradication of bed bugs.

No action has been taken as no bed bugs have been found in your District.

HOUSING.

Seven houses were erected during 1939 by private enterprise.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR 1939.

Unfit dwelling-houses.

Inspection.

(1) [a] Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	93
[b] Number of Inspections made for the purpose...	132
(2) [a] Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	39
[b] Number of Inspections made for the purpose...	98
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	39

Remedy of defects during the year without Service of formal notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	39
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Action under Statutory Powers during the year : -

A. Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 4

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners ... 4

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... 0

C. Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... 0

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... 0

D. Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 0

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... 0

4. Housing Act, 1936. Part IV.

Overcrowding :—

(a) [1] Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... 0

[2] Number of families dwelling therein ... 0

[3] Number of persons dwelling therein ... 0

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... 0

(c) [1] Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... 0

[2] Number of persons concerned in such cases 0

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... 0

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(1) Slaughter-houses.

There are four slaughter-houses registered in your District. These are periodically inspected and are in a satisfactory condition.

(2) Dairies and Cowsheds.

Four cowsheds are registered and five milk retailers in your District. All the milk retailers produce milk outside your area.

(3) Bakehouses.

Two bakehouses are registered. These are periodically inspected and are in a satisfactory condition.

(4) Sales of Food and Drugs Act.

Two carcasses of beef, one carcass of veal and about three-quarters of a ton of parts of pigs were destroyed during the year as unfit for human consumption.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During 1939 the following cases of Infectious Disease were notified :

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>Total Cases Notified.</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>
Small-pox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Enteric Fever			
(including paratyphoid)	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Pneumonia	2	0	0
Erysipelas	0	0	0

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

No case was notified during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Particulars of cases notified and deaths from this disease during 1939 are given in the following table.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5			I					
10								
15								
20								
25				I				
30						I		
45								
55								
65 and upwards								
TOTALS	0	0	I	I	0	I	0	0

In my opinion there are no cases of tuberculosis in the District which are non-notified.

Venereal Disease.

Cases of venereal disease can receive free treatment under the County Council scheme at either the Bath or Swindon Clinics.

Government Evacuation Scheme.

In September, 1939, 240 school children were received into the District and billeted.

Air Raid Precautions.

Two First Aid Parties are being maintained and fully equipped.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

REGINALD M. MOORE, M.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

